

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a continuation application of and claims the benefit of priority from Serial No. 09/386,295, filed August 31, 1999, which claims the benefit of ~~based on~~ Japanese Patent Application No. 10-279076, filed September 30, 1998 ~~1999~~, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.